THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI. R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) As per the information available through the sample Registration system of the Registrar General of India, the Infant Mortality Rate for Andhra Pradesh has consistently been lower than the National average. While the Infant Mortality Rate of the country for 1995 was 74 per 1000 live births, for Andhra Pradesh it was 66 per 1000 live births. A statement giving the Infant Mortality Rates for the States is attached.

(b) to (d) : The Child Survival and Safe Motherhood Programme launched in 1992 was implemented in all districts of the country in a phased manner. The Programme aimed at reducing infant mortality through Immunization, control of diarrhoeal diseases, Care of acute respiratory infection cases, provision of essential newborn care and Prophylaxis against Vitamin A deficiency.

The family welfare programme is being continuously augmented depending on the availability of additional resources to the Department.

Statement

I. *Infant Mortality Rates*
India and Major States, 1995 (Provisional)

India	74*
Andhra Pradesh	66
Assam	77
Bihar	73
Gujarat	62
Haryana	68
Himachal Pradesh	21
Karnataka	62
Kerala	16
Madhya Pradesh	99
Maharashtra	55
Orissa	103
Punjab	54
Rajasthan	85
Tamil Nadu	56
Uttar Pradesh	86
West Bengal	59

(* Exclude Jammu & Kashmir and Mizoram)

II. *Provisional Estimates of infant Mortality Rate (IMR) for the period 1993-95 for Smaller States/ Union Territories*

Arunachal Pradesh	63
Goa	14
Manipur	27
Meghalaya	45
Nagaland	6
Sikkim	47
Tripura	45
A&N Islands	32
Chandigarh	42
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	78
Daman & Diu	36
Delhi	39
Lakshadweep	37
Pondicheery	25

(Source : Sample Registration System)

Ground Water Level

*512. SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether ground water levels in various parts of the country have gone down to an alarming low level; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the preventive and corrective steps proposed to be taken in this direction, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) Long term observations of ground water levels made by the Central Ground Water Board have shown gradual decline in the level of ground water in some pockets of some States in the Country.

(b) The fall in ground water level is mainly due to exploitation of ground water in excess of annual recharge as well as variation in the amount and distribution of rainfall. The steps taken by the Union Government to prevent decline in the level of ground water include :

(i) Circulation of a Model Bill to all the States/Union Territories to enable them to enact suitable legislation for regulation and control of ground water development.

(ii) Circulation of a Manual on artifical recharge of

ground water to the States/Union Territories to enable them to formulate area specific artificial recharge schemes to check the declining trend in ground water levels.

(iii) Implementation of a Central Sector Scheme on recharge of ground water by Central Ground Water Board in Maharashtra, Karnataka, NCT of Delhi and Union Territory of Chandigarh in coordination with concerned State Governments.

(iv) Formulation of a Centrally Sponsored Schemes to assist the State Government in artifical recharge of ground water. The scheme is at consultation stage.

(v) Constitution of the Central Ground Water Board as an Authority under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for regulation and control of ground water management and development.

Shortage of Officers in Army

*513. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH :
SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total shortage of officer cadre in the Army;

(b) the number of applications for premature retirements pending in the Army Headquarter; and

(c) the efforts made by the Government to make up this shortage in the officer cadre ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV) : (a) The total shortage of officer cadre in the Amry is 12,972.

(b) 144 as on 30.4.1997.

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this direction include introduction of University Entry Scheme, Direct entry for NCC 'C' certificate holders without going through the UPSC examination, enhanced recruitment of permanent Commissioned Officers and Short Service Commissioned Officers, and induction of women as officers in the service. A new scheme for induction of personnel below officer rank as commissioned officers has also been approved. A campaign through the media for highlighting the advantages of a career in the army is also being launched.

Analysis of Tobacco Products

*514. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have made any scientific analysis of the Pan Masala Tabacco Product "Gutka" to know its adverse effects on consumer health;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to ban production and sale of such products;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) to (e) A high level Technical Committee of expert constituted by the Government has recommended that systematic, clinical/epidemiological studies should be carried out to ascertain the co-relation between consumption of pan masala and gutka and their adverse effects. Two proposals for carrying out such epidemiological and animal based studies to be conducted over a period of two to three years are under consideration.

According to the provisions of Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955 packages of pan masala and chewing tobacco products are required to carry out a statutory warning on the label. Further with effect from November, 1990, the advertisement of pan masalas and tabacco have been banned on Doordarshan and All India Radio.

Develpment of Primary Education

*515. SHRI SURENDRA YADAV :
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that primary education in the country is being neglected for the last few years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the percentage of allocation of funds made for the development of primary education during the last three years as well as current years, till-date; and

(c) steps taken for the development/improvement of primary education ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) and (b) Government of India attaches the greatest importance to Universalisation of Elementary Edcuation (UEE). In pursuance of the National Policy on Education, 1986, as revised in 1992, concerted efforts are being made by the Central and State Governments to achieved the goal of UEE before we enter the twenty frist century.